

A Vote for Secession



David C. Morrow, a Corpus Christi native who now lives in Arlington, was graduated from UT-Austin with a psychology degree and served two years in the U.S. Medical Corps. He moved to the metroplex in 1972.

Independence from the United States would benefit not only Texas, but ultimately

the remainder of the nation and the allies of both countries, as well. For citizens of Texas, transformed into one of the world's larger, wealthier nations, immediate economic and cultural benefits would occur.

Our wealth, in the form of natural resources and taxes, would cease flowing North and be turned to local use, along with money from beyond our borders. For example, Texas' natural gas wouldn't be sold more cheaply in Boston than in San Antonio, while taxes paid in South Texas — one of the country's poorest regions and one which has been cited as exemplifying our backwardness — would no longer be used to shore up New York City's wealthy facade. Money would flow Southward, especially in winter. Lease of Texas land for such installations

as the NASA complex would bring further revenues and require our inclusion in all aspects of space exploration. Since the Republic of Texas would require lower operating expenses than the United States, we could enjoy a higher living standard than we now have, leaving enough funds for national programs to develop alternative energy sources, to further education and cultivate the arts and scientific research.

A high standard of living and rich cultural growth would belong to citizens possessing the same basic rights and freedoms as now. Such fundamental principles as separation of church and state, representative government, division of powers with checks and balances, and the original Bill of Rights would obtain, but, at the same time, we would be able to correct and avoid their abuse. That is, while all rights would be guaranteed every citizen not convicted of a felony regardless of race, gender, language, creed or national origin, a person's public duties and individual responsibilities should be stressed as the price of freedom. Taxpayers would cease bearing the burden of self-righteous parasites, who would have to emigrate. A viable, even lucrative, solution might be found to the "victimless crime" problem, while genuine criminals need no longer be coddled to ease Eastern consciences. Similarly, free from concern for the political and economic consequences back East, we could handle organized crime with any necessary degree of ruthlessness, and update and adapt to local conditions the various phases of civil law.

International matters would become as immediately vital as local ones, but in a way very different from other new or resurgent nations. The Republic of Texas would be re-created as a wholly integrated member of the Western World and ally of the United States, completely modernized, and a nuclear

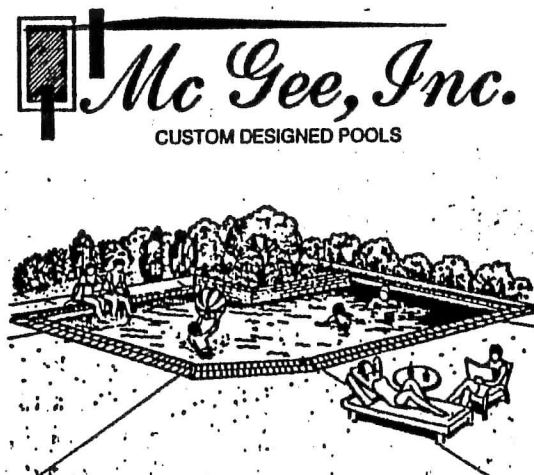
power. Texan blood need no longer spill in politicians' futile wars — free of the United States' self-defeating foreign policy, we would hold an ambiguous position in the eyes of the world. Having no colonies and no territorial ambitions beyond, perhaps, the peaceful recovery of our New Mexico and Colorado lands, and owning no monopolies in Third World nations, we would likely find the latter attracted to us by our apparent resemblance to them. Our Latin American origins and heritage could give us more intimate access to the peoples of the region, and the possibility of OPEC membership would create ties with Arab states, perhaps even allow us to mitigate the oil crisis. It's not impossible that Communist countries could be induced to send aid in the unlikely hope we would side with one or the other of their factions, and with all of them against the United States.

But Texas' loyalty to the West, and especially the English-speaking world and its allies, would, of course, never waver. For this reason, our independence could only strengthen all of us. The United States would have to do what it should have done decades ago — engage in a thorough housecleaning to secure the allegiance of its remaining states, and apply its Yankee ingenuity instead of our resources to the solution of its economic woes. Thus, two strengthened and cooperative nations would emerge where once we had a single increasingly strife-ridden one. In an era when a multitude of non-Western nations is arising, an extra United Nations vote in the Western and North American camp would unquestionably prove of value.

And in another, even deeper and more important way, the second Republic of Texas would benefit all those who share our heritage. It would stand as an example of the strength and flexibility of the American way of life, of the capacity to adapt and continue as the old frontier becomes a new one.

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It's time to give Indians their own state senators

By DAVID C. MORROW

The "Melting Pot" hasn't worked. Many ethnic groups, who never al-

together surrendered their identities, now take the opposite course. Black Americans during the last decades

have found pride in their identity and history.

Hispanics and others have tried with different degrees of success to

preserve their heritages.

"That this seems a threat, a 'divide and conquer' tactic, to members of

the supposed dominant culture is obvious political role.

As a remedy, there should be state senators specifically to represent

Texas' American Indians and drawn from their traditional political units.

This would, first, help simplify government by eliminating the fed-

eral and state agencies now handling Indian affairs and the bureaucratic

expense and waste they entail.

Second, it would enable Indians to control their own community affairs

without much red tape, without hav-

ing to go outside the established channels of Texas government, and

we've all seen how easily Washington, D.C., can be bullied into extreme mea-

sures, while the future could well hold alterations in strength, sovereignty,

is the time to anticipate and circum-

vent the effects of change.

By taking action voluntarily, rather than being forced perhaps to

even more radical measures by pro-

tests and intervention that would

make it look grudging and give people

a tool for imposing other, gratui-

Texas would be a jump ahead at

meeting the practical and emotional

needs of our times and the future.

For now, we could gain the sup-

port and approval of Indian activists

like Vine Deloria Jr., who wants Na-

tive American social entities consid-

ered nations, and of civil libertarians

of all stripes, and in so doing show

Texas more socially progressive —

than the rest of the United States —

much to the astonishment of many

here and abroad.

proving their quality of life.

separateness and identity while im-

abled them to preserve their sense of

participation in government that en-

joy the kind of active, meaningful

Indians, for their part, would then

the United States.

and strong in a future that appears

would likewise be made more united

Texas, and so the United States,

and across the borders of nations.

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worked in the field of water technology.

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Barren planets offer Earth hope

By DAVID C. MORROW

Another View

The best news to come out of the space program is the near certainty that no extraterrestrial life exists in the inner portion of our solar system. Despite a century of speculative fiction, despite the great value it could have to bioscience and to scientific understanding in general, we are not ready for alien life.

We do not understand life on Earth as well as we should, and are in two forever altered and probably rapidly evolving biospheres neither of which was properly understood before mixing.

We would likely cause the extinction, not just the alteration, of alien life, raising the question of whether we should even visit inhabited worlds.

Many stresses of present industrial society would intensify, strict conservationists, for example, would oppose further exploration. The outermost, if not the end of Western man's self-aware life forms capable of directing their own evolution, might overwhelm us by its mere existence.

Differences

And there is no reason to assume that they would be benevolent, or even that their motives, interests and behavior would be comprehensible, since their origins, or at least their environment and history, would differ from ours and their thinking would be more advanced.

Even less complex forms, aside from the often explored possibilities of conflict, incorporation of alien genetic material, diseases or vermin that produce non-biodegradable waste, present the danger of our being overwhelmed by new discoveries.

Uninhabited worlds offer their benefits without any of these dangers because they open up vast, truly empty realms to life as we know it.

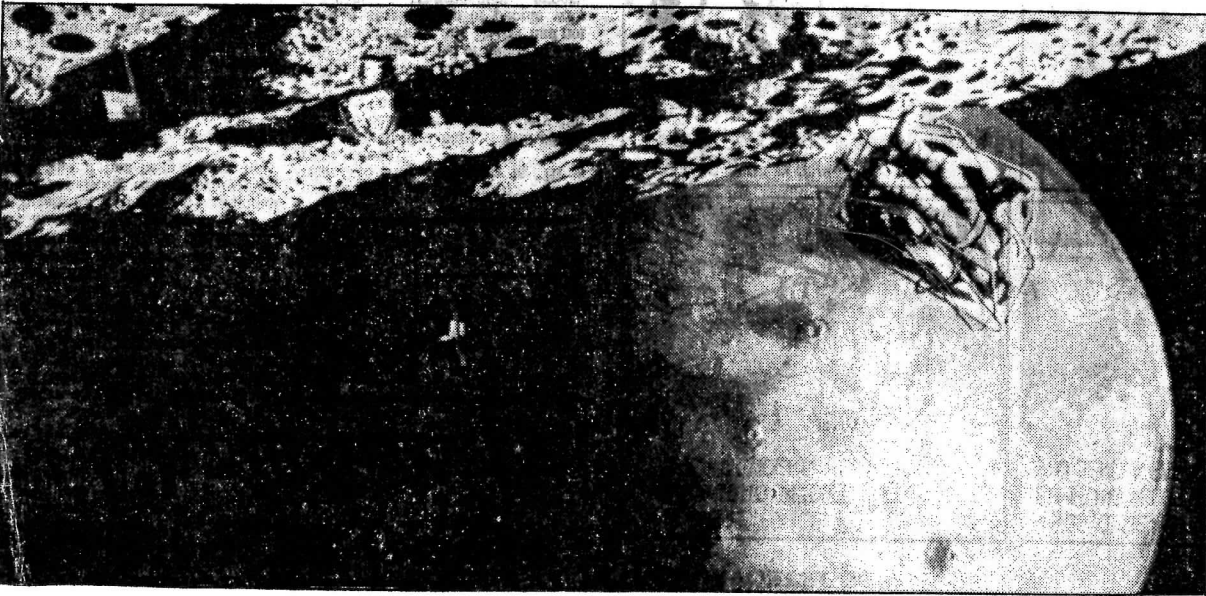
Because pioneers will want to duplicate as much as possible their home even where they do not strictly need to, industrial settlement, far

This NASA drawing depicts a plan to put astronauts on the Martian moon Phobos and on the red planet itself

realms empty like the moon, not "empty" like 16th-century America. The nearest equivalent to our present opportunity was when Paleozoic creatures clambered onto the senseless rocks of the unpopulated continents.

The industrial use of the planets can proceed. Scenic wonders there may be, but these are far easier to preserve than fragile habitats and even the most remarkable of creatures — who quickly become weeds and pests to entrepreneurs.

Because pioneers will want to duplicate as much as possible their home even where they do not strictly need to, industrial settlement, far



from ruining a planet for life, will be the basis for transforming it into a living world.

Not only will there be no barriers to settling lifeless worlds, but none to terraforming them.

Biology will enter its golden age as a fully applied science when animals and plants are designed for the purpose of clearing Venusian clouds and releasing Martian water.

Life forms tailor-made to live even in environments vastly different from Earth, some to evolve as ent from Earth, some to evolve as created genetically.

Biological experiments for any

purpose can be performed elsewhere without fear of further disturbing Earth's "natural" life.

Extraterrestrial sanctuaries may be created for endangered species, and some existing creatures may bepreadapted to live on other planets.

The uninhabited planets will thus benefit not only humans, but Earth life in general as the range and diversity of species expand and human pressure at home relaxes through the use of interplanetary resources.

The ability to occupy more worlds will leave us less vulnerable to such trauma as whatever it was that killed off so much of Cretaceous life.

It will place us in a better position

When settlers reach Mars and other nearby worlds, they should celebrate the date of their arrival as a safe voyage and for the new future that lies before them, but especially because that world is lifeless, a fallow and innocent realm awaiting the fertile touch of Earthly creation.

David C. Morrow lives in Corpus Christi.

Texas should have own party

By DAVID C. MORROW

Future conditions in Texas will inevitably differ from those of the past. New discoveries will open up unforeseen opportunities. Pollution will worsen before it is controlled, the population will peak, and there will be economic troubles. Our ability to solve these problems will be affected by partisan and national politics, by foreign investors, and by fluctuations in the soundness of the United States economy.

Change, which always engenders change, is needed to deal with change. Using alcohol and other renewable fuels in cars to cut down atmospheric pollution will also disentangle the United States from foreign dependence. But Texas' oil industry will have to adapt to survive, possibly — if it does not become too regulated to be creative — by finding more uses for petroleum products.

Texas will have to actively manage its natural resources, its ecosystems and its human and cultural heritage. This might be financed without increased taxes by charging to use some parks and beaches, or having out-of-state tourists buy decals to pay for their use of our highways. Before such measures could be undertaken there might be dramatic political struggles.

Foreign investment can lead to the exploitation of our resources without benefit to Texas, and the manipulation of foreign employees' wages for reasons having to do with conditions and business deals in Japan or Germany.

Our best real estate, even national treasures, could end up owned by overseas magnates. Not only might progress be stopped, along with any

Another View

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Improvements unprofitable to foreign owners, but conditions would deteriorate whenever beneficial to our own constituents. Compromise of means and aims may even be necessary on a local level as well, simply as a result of a party's control by its overall organization.

Another problem, and one seldom mentioned, is summed up in the federal Congress' reaction to certain circumstances. In April 1989, local- ing the proposed supercollider site in Texas was subjected to intense debate because of what the Associated Press termed "anti-Texas sentiment." People were angry about the savings and loan problem, about Jim Wright's difficulties, about the failure to close any Texas military bases during austerity measures, and they blamed Texas as an entity.

This is neither new nor wholly political. According to Jimmy Banks, in Gov. Connally as running mates because of "anti-Texas feelings" in the nation and the political establishment. In his autobiography, astronaut Buzz Aldrin stated that "fortunately" his children did not pick up accents while living in Houston. On the other end of the spectrum, 1960s radical Jane Albert reports in her autobiography that she resented Lyndon

for reasons having nothing to do with its essential purpose. Federal and interstate parties must accommodate radicalization. The widespread uneasiness and compromise because they include members everywhere having different needs and interests.

A Democrat, a Libertarian or a Republican may come up with a perfectly viable solution to a Southwest-Oregon or Rhode Island might not lend support unless something is added or altered to suit his or her own constituency. Compromise of means and aims may even be necessary on a local level as well, simply as a result of a party's control by its overall organization.

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By choosing an agreed-upon specific number of clinics in design- by a particular amount and build a state budget, increase employment certain amount of surplus in the The stated goals might be to create a Party could avoid much divisiveness. goals and not methods, the Lone Star With an emphasis on concrete our own citizens' interests.

Which it would have none) than of splitting California party members (of that are less a reflection of trends in interstate parties, be able to pass laws Maine. In Austin it would, unlike in- than sort of suited to New York or legislation useful to Texas rather off. In Washington it would help keep its own ends, and could play them with other parties, but only to further Texas. It would have to cooperate Members would naturally be pro- global and local action.

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If results are inadequate and show no sign of improvement, the party would try another method. If a so-called conservative solution does not yield progress, then the Lone Star Party would adopt a liberal tactic. try it, and abandon or alter it if it needed.

Under this system there might be legislation and court rulings working together on the basis of political opinions that are at present considered antagonistic, all under the aegis of the same party. What would matter would be measurable progress toward a goal — more available medical facilities, restrictions on foreign ownership — not whose philosophy acted to show its effectiveness.

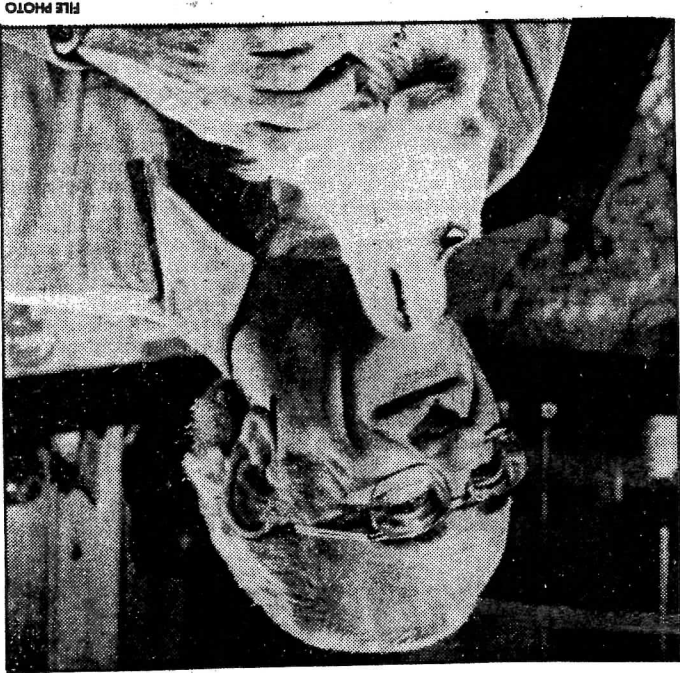
Once goals are decided, perhaps their already created programs to its own benefit.

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FILE PHOTO

Some people considered President Lyndon B. Johnson a foreigner.

Right now is the time to prepare for the future, and the practical way to do that is to quit compromising our identity and debating ideology and start solving problems.

In today's world this means dealing with each item in itself and as part of a greater whole. A Texas state political party will prove the most flexible and pragmatic tool of improvement, geared at once to local conditions and to a world community.

David Morrow lives in Corpus Christi.

Pet recycling would aid homeless, boost ecology

By David C. Morrow

tions. An example might be to eat unwanted pets instead of just killing and dumping them, and to start by using them to feed and employ the homeless.

Every holiday season begins with appeals for help for the destitute. Charities, churches and civic organizations everywhere serve meals and provide toys for children. How much more cost-effective, saved for the taxpayers if next Halloween or Feast of St. Francis were the signal to empty out pounds, to cull kennels, to retire animals — cats and dogs mostly — to fill the cities, sometimes attacking people and always serving as vectors for diseases, including rabies.

The Cold War may be over, but we've still got plenty of problems and a lot of halfway solutions. Garbage is piling up, chemical waste is pouring into air and water, and the sheer number of people and domestic animals that causes it keeps increasing. Whether or not the economy has turned around, there are more and more homeless people looking for work and trying to feed their families. Stray, unwanted animals — cats and dogs mostly — fill the cities, sometimes attacking people and always serving as vectors for diseases, including rabies.

Recycling and more efficient use of resources are answers, but most people make unconnected, here and there efforts lacking unified overall impact. The simplest and most comprehensive responses would combine ecological and social action. take off, they would continue their original to develop out of it. As these businesses get wanted. As profits accumulate, would relieve part of our local tax burden fees, for example, might be refundable de- United States as gourmet food with snob appeal, making it acceptable on the upper end of the social spectrum. Similarly, pelts

ANOTHER VIEW

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inspiration by hitting first the long-term unemployed to fill the need for more administrators, butchers, dog catchers, tanners. Various measures could help ensure the threat to wildlife. It can be marketed in the mainstream United States as gourmet food with snob appeal, making it acceptable on the upper end of the social spectrum. Similarly, pelts

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

glasses or logo T-shirts could be awarded whoever brings animals in, from litters of puppies and kittens to the occasional horse. Holiday and summertime contests would give prizes for the kids who brought in the biggest dog or the fattest cat. Of course charity doesn't turn the financial profits needed to run a business; pet recycling will have to become a year-round enterprise based on found and created markets. Dog and cat meat can be furnished to stores and eateries in Laotian and other immigrant communities where peoples' homelands and other Third World countries to supplement local supplies, it wouldn't just save lives, but also lessen the threat to wildlife. It is customary fare. Exported to those countries to supplement local supplies, it wouldn't just save lives, but also lessen the threat to wildlife. It can be marketed in the mainstream United States as gourmet food with snob appeal, making it acceptable on the upper end of the social spectrum. Similarly, pelts

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Your Turn

10 JULY, 1974

Mood surrounding Woodstock of '69 gone forever

By David C. Morrow

There may be a Woodstock II, but except in the most superficial sense, it can't be the original festival any more than this year can be 1969. Unfortunately, the people who don't realize this are the politicians, pressure groups and media pundits who influence them.

Some old problems remain, but 25 years ago virtually everything had to be tied to the overwhelming dilemma of the Vietnam War.

Whether you wanted it to or not and whatever your actual opinions on other matters.

Two camps. One included everything traditionally associated with the capitalist nation that won World War II and the other, by de-

fault, with everything else, especially what-

ever the war's supporters didn't like or un-

derstand. Times were tense, even danger-

ous. You usually lacked the option to discuss

and clarify: you often had to make fast polit-

ical decisions. That's all history today —

except to the office holders, the preachers of

various ilk, the usually self-appointed ex-

ponents, the commentators who rose to that

occasion and were, as the psychobabblers

say, empowered by it.

True, there are still effects to deal with.

Tens of thousands died and more were

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wounded. Americans may still be in South-east Asia. There are unsolved crimes committed in the name of peace or patriotism. But whether we should be there and what opinions belong in the controversy are dead issues, matters like the rights and wrongs of the Spanish American War for historians to debate.

It's easy enough to tell who's still fighting over the war. For one thing, they include most political and cultural authorities. For another, they always see people and ideas in 1960s terms. One bunch will assume that whoever thinks abortion should stay legal creeps on the opposite side of a social fissure that briefly existed a quarter century ago. The cost of their measures is colossal, of some lethal to American ways, but any time now sexist, gun-toting, rednecks will

doesn't care about the environment. This clinging to outdated political shibboleths renders blatant hypocrites who get sloshed on booze while jailing pot smokers or spout special legislation to prevent "violence against women." Both insist on the right to privacy as well as random drug tests and chipper chips in every phone.

These leaders are totalitarians who ignore real problems as well as the Bill of Rights and the demands of economics in their zeal to push their agendas for 1970. They want to kick in everyone's door to confiscate guns or drugs (now including tobacco) and stop sex education or compel every-

one into a national health bureaucracy. The Communists and the Birchers have dwindled, but we've got to sacrifice our rights to the struggle against Colombian gangsters or the "patriarchy." We are burdened with bloated budgets and swollen governments, foreign competition, lack of jobs. But what- ever lip service our leaders give these real problems, their real motive is to get those

Christ!

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Whoever remembers the realities of 1969, overpriced tickets to the imitation of the event that could never happen again. Our leaders have been hawking those tickets ever since and we've seen few alternatives to buying them. But as long as our institutions and resources are controlled by persons, conservative and liberal, whose ideas were rendered irrelevant before Nixon resigned, our country will go downhill. It's high time to fire all the old — and not so old — fogies right and left and deal straightforwardly with today.

beat everyone up and shave their heads or stoned hippies will use sex, drugs and rock music to turn our kids into gay commies. Almost everyone else has out all this behind them. Most of us want to mind our own business and be rewarded for honest work. We judge policies by these standards and by costs. Are graduates illiterate? Can cops really be everywhere or do individuals need to defend themselves? Will these regulations be everywhere or create jobs? Is that prohibition justified by the costs?

FORUM

After Littleton, we're still looking for answers

David C.
MORROW

Americans deal poorly with disorder and lack examples of moral leadership because so many are what was once called "well-adjusted." Certain murderers seem especially baffling — Saddam Hussein, admired and respected by his people, we understand — although the clearest signs of what's wrong are the actions of normal people around them.

Most persons go with the flow, imitating whatever is current while giving deeper concepts lip service. Whoever does so while appearing sociable is well-adjusted; not doing so and especially taking ideals seriously are troubling symptoms. When the term came into use it included strict superficial conformity, suspecting every one of being a communist, and keeping the most rigid racial separation since Reconstruction. Today's version, still socially superficial, includes being "politically correct," suspecting everyone of domestic violence and child abuse, and denying anyone's ability to behave ethically. White Americans in 1955 were as astonished that black ones didn't like racist jokes as in-crowd kids were that nerds don't consider themselves clowns.

A commonplace happening shows the genesis of rage: a teacher seeing an athlete harass another student disregards the

right response and ignores or merely quells the situation. Thus he appears to favor the bully and at least tacitly blame the victim, which he probably does since people usually side with popularity. A victim who admits his quite natural anger will suffer retaliation because negativity toward the well-adjusted, the socially approved, is "inappropriate," and here defies the teacher's authority.

Unpunished, bullies may become increasingly aggressive and adept at hiding it in popularity. Victims, especially ones lacking emotional resources, might recover or even grow stronger, but likely not. Counseling can increase anger, since most therapists instinctively approve a social leader's viciousness and consider righteous anger pathological. Clever victims learn to hide their feelings and manipulate authorities with psychobabble.

The notion of some criminals as victims may own a trace element of truth, but it doesn't follow that therefore their victims are guilty and themselves innocent. Much has been made of the early signs someone might turn violent, but these don't always apply and nobody's likely to know how long some stranger wet the bed or whether he obsessively played with matches. Anyone can catch a perpetrator who's careless or believes he won't be punished.

Wise persons have always understood that the commonplace circumstances of living are the wellsprings of evil. That the mentally sick are usually too incompetent

to do great harm and that criminals aren't alienated, but rather profoundly social creatures responsive to the subtlest nuances of acceptance and rejection and the dynamic of strengths and weaknesses.

That's why philosophers, religious, even occasional secular leaders, teach that individuals and societies are subject to some unchanging external morality that they attribute to God or karma or natural law or whatever power is assumed. This standard is for everyone and failure to live by and uphold it brings consequences ranging from personal anguish to *post-mortem* sanctions to widespread disaster.

Our teacher's correct response is to act by the standards he mouths rather than by popularity. The jock — as any aggressor should — gets a lesson in respect for others that might convince him not to hurt people for fun. Seeing authority protect him, the victim may feel no inclination to cultivate anger and shallow non-conformity. Whoever follows an ethical standard is neither well-adjusted nor politically correct, two terms meaning shallow, but knows when to be conventional and when and how not to. Starting now, lessons and better examples can at least help the newest generation and may in the long term produce respectable leaders.

(David C. Morrow is a native Corpus Christian, a graduate of Carroll High and UT-Austin.)